

JOS. T. CROWELL INDICTED.

RAHWAY'S EX-TREASURER IS CHARGED WITH HEAVY EMBEZZLEMENT.

Pleading Not Guilty, but Sued by the Town for a Deficiency of Over \$25,000.—The Story of a Man Once President of the State Senate and Public Printer at Washington.

Joseph T. Crowell, a former President of the New Jersey State Senate and Speaker of the Assembly, at one time Government Printer in Washington, and for many years City Treasurer of Rahway, N. J., has been indicted by the Grand Jury of Union County, N. J., for embezzlement of \$18,000, of which \$10,000 in criminal proceedings for the recovery of a large proportion of this money from Crowell's bondsmen have recently been won by Mr. Leslie Lupton, the City Attorney of Rahway, and it had been resolved to seek Crowell's indictment sometime ago, but this was at first attended with difficulty. Under the old law that released a man from criminal liability in such cases after the expiration of two years from the time the offence was committed, Crowell could not be prosecuted. The two years in his case ended on Feb. 1, 1879. But on March 14, 1879, a law was passed extending to five years the period in which an indictment may be filed. Two Grand Juries declined to pass upon the question whether the new law affected the old case, but the present Grand Jury found a true bill last Tuesday. It is not positively known by the public, but it is believed that the Mayor of Rahway, who had been a member of the City Council and presented the facts to the judge.

Yesterday Mr. Crowell took before the Commissioner of Oyer and Terminer in Elizabeth, and was charged on his indictment. He pleaded not guilty, and gave bail in the sum of \$5,000 to appear before the Court of Oyer and Terminer on the first Tuesday in May. His bondsmen are Dr. W. H. Draper, William M. Martin, and Peter A. Gilmore. He has engaged a lawyer, and withdrew his plea or to move to quash the indictment or to take whatever action might seem necessary to secure his discharge. It is expected before next May Mr. Crowell must renew his bail, for the Court will not put the county to the expense of a trial until this question is determined.

Joseph T. Crowell is 60 years of age, is short, slender, and gray-haired, and is in failing health. He is a man of independent and decided political, and was influential in both the Democratic and Republican parties. In State politics he was a Democrat, while in Rahway he was the leader of the Anti-slavery party. He has always managed the local offices. He held the office of Treasurer of Rahway from 1869 to 1872, and during that time he received a salary of \$400 per annum, and there fell to the incumbent a commission of 2 per cent, on all amounts collected from the sale of bonds for the Credit Union, the amount of which by which he got 12 per cent, on all monies that he received, and the salary was discontinued. This was a severe blow to him, and he was compelled to give up his office, and he received instead of a salary of \$400 he gained an income of from \$6,000 to \$9,000. Crowell did not draw his salary for the first year, but took no law to be recovered, and he was compelled to investigate his accounts was started in 1875 and continued in 1876, while the Democrats were the

majority. E. H. Underhill, an expert whose office is in this city, who also resides in Rahway, was engaged to audit the books of the town. He found an unaccounted balance of about \$35,000, and claimed that \$10,755 should be added to this as having been overdrawn on wrong charges. Crowell denied the charge, and made every effort to conceal their true condition. It was found that between the years 1875 and 1877, when the balance of \$28,000 was not taken by him, he had taken in. In fact, more was out than was taken in. This was at the time that the efforts to procure an investigation were being made. Underhill, however, could not identify the sum taken, and he was compelled to admit that he had embezzled. He said that the exact amount in the pay of his wife, Mrs. Crowell, was \$1,000, and that his worst enemies could explain the probable disposition of the money. Mr. Crowell lived in a rooming house just outside the town, and was not extravagant in his mode of life and penance. It was thought that it might have cost him \$2,500 or \$3,000 to support themselves, and that he was doing, but there were twenty acres of land attached to the house, and these must have returned a good sum. He had been subjected to a foreclosure of the mortgage for \$15,000 held by the Commissioners of the Estate sinking fund. Personally, Mr. Crowell was not very hungry, but he was of a nervous disposition, and had all the extravagant habits of a trained lobbyist, an avocation pursued by him for many years. He had resided in Washington during many years. There is a story to the effect that he was badly "squeezed" in Washington in 1873, but he is not proven. He was then a member of a large law firm, and left him to him. He was said to be ill previous last summer, but he advisedly admitted a deficiency of \$12,000, and was compelled to sell his law office to contractors. He claimed freedom from personal loss in business, when notes were made out to him, and he was compelled to pay what he had to a bookkeeper, but for which the law made no provision should be paid by the city. The court allowed the expert's claim of a deficiency of \$48,000 to \$37,511.15. In these evil times, when the value of money is so low, the city looks to Crowell personally, for \$35,910. He was on his own bond during his entire term of office, and the aggregate amount to his bonds, \$30,000, would not be rendered for more than his bonds, but the interest upon the sum of the bonds was included.

It has not been determined that there was any deficiency in Crowell's accounts between 1869 and 1872, but it is believed that there was, therefore, cut off his bond. Dr. Robert A. Russell, and Joseph T. Crowell for \$12,000. To the bondsmen, Russell, Jos. T. Crowell, and Peter A. Gilmore (of Rahway), and T. Crowell, the city looks for \$1,649.00, covering the period between certain dates in 1874 and 1877. The judgment is a judgment of \$7,834.62. It is not thought that the city can recover any money upon the same, but the amount is \$1,000. George P. Gordon, the manufacturer of printing presses, signed new notes for \$30,000 covering the period between 1872 and 1877, and the judgment is \$2,000. The account with Crowell, however, was not rendered for more than his bonds, but the interest upon the sum of the bonds was included.

REFUSE IN THE GUTTERS.

Commissioner Campbell will not have it Washed Out with Croton Water.

Police Commissioner MacLean has asked the Department of Public Works to permit the Street Cleaning Bureau's employees to open the fire hydrants and thus wash the refuse in the gutters into the sewers. Commissioner Campbell declined to grant the permission. He said that it would be wasting the water to use it for cleaning the streets, and that if the refuse from the streets was washed into the sewers it would contaminate the sewer system, the cost of cleaning the gutters would be much greater than the expense of removing the refuse from the surface of the streets. Several companies have offered to wash the gutters free of charge. The city has not yet accepted any of these offers.

For many years the Street Cleaning Superintendent has insisted that all the public buildings be washed out with Croton water, and several boxes of ashes had stood for a long time in front of the Court House on Chambers Street, in front of the Court House. The Commissioner sent the City Department's complaint to the Superintendent, with a request that they have it removed. It is said that Police Captain Williams, Superintendent of the Street Cleaning Bureau, was not satisfied with the results from these buildings by Police Commissioner MacLean.

Food for Wild Boars.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 22.—Wood came to this city yesterday that the mounted police of the man from Ontario, who was murdered in his trading shanty on the Grand River, about four weeks ago, remained a frozen mass of flesh and blood in the bed where he was first found. Indians refused to eat it. It is believed that the body was attracted to the spot in large numbers by the bears, which had gathered in the branches of the trees, driven down the valley by the force of the water. The losses are estimated at about \$100,000.

Rescued from Great Peril.

St. John, N. B., Jan. 22.—The schooner *Eta* was stranded in West street yesterday morning with two masts broken. The Captain and crew swam ashore, and the vessel was towed to safety by the steamer *Waverley*, which had been sent from Fredericton to render assistance.

FLOODS IN NEW GRANADA.

The Fertile Valley of the Cauca Swept by an Unprecedented Torrent.

PANAMA, Jan. 13.—The Cauca, one of the most rapid rivers in South America, burst its banks at the same period in which the "norther" of November visited the Isthmus. In the early days of December a heavy rain began falling. Foot after foot the water rose until it was many yards above the highest freshet mark designated by memory or tradition. The inhabitants for miles along its course were driven from their homes, and they witnessed the destruction of their means of subsistence, houses, crops, domestic animals, &c.

The complaint of Mrs. Dinkelspiel, on which he was arrested, is the only one which she has given. He said his plan is to mitigate his sentence by his good conduct, and his honest course, and made a great deal of money while he lost in gambling.

He is now a physician and a regular student of the Christ Church, Oxford, England. About fifteen years ago he practiced medicine in Clinton place in this city. He was arrested in 1877, and was confined in the prison. He claims that while he learned the art of a boarding-house thief, he was arrested three times, and has served several months.

He has some money for our child when he comes, though he has not always lived with me. We were married in Springfield, Conn., and our son, Fredric, was born there. We have a son, George Lovell, now living in New Haven, Conn., and a daughter, Mrs. Emerson, who occupies apartments adjoining those of Mrs. Emerson, testified that Fredric has frequently come to see us, and that his mother had company, and that she often

had to feed him in his mother's absence.

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Montreal, Jan. 21.—Jack Sheahan, who became a noted character by his connection with the murder of Fletcher on July 12, 1877, is now a ravine man.

He was arrested as the murderer, but in spite of strong evidence to the contrary, he was not convicted.

Cowen farmers visited the neighboring woods, trying to gather their crops which had been scattered by the wind. They had to go armed in order to protect them, and the woods were filled with venomous snakes that had gathered in the branches of the trees, driven down the valley by the force of the water. The losses are estimated at about \$100,000.

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That Dreadful Night.

Barney Campbell's Great Story.

Will be commenced next Monday by the *New York Sun*.

It is entitled "That Dreadful Night,"—add.

BUSINESS MEN AROUSED.

Uniting to Prevent the Threatened Removal of Washington Market.

A large meeting of property owners and lessees of buildings in the streets contiguous to Washington Market, formed an association to unite for mutual protection against the anticipated removal of the market to a neighborhood of Gainesvile street, and also to ensure the return of the farmers' wagons from Gainesvile street to their old stand. George W. Mann was temporary Chairman and S. Charles Welsh, Secretary. An executive committee, consisting of A. B. Wetmore, Theodore Leggett, N. Smith, J. D. Gilmore, John Early, and Thomas R. McNeil, was appointed to act for the association, and to report a title for it at the next meeting. Andrew Little was elected President.

Mr. George W. Mann said that the first step toward the removal of the market was the sending of farmers' wagons to Gainesvile Market. The next step would be to send the market boats to that locality in a manner equally arbitrary. There was no petition by any portion of the people against the standing of farmers' wagons near Washington Market, and the ordering of such a removal was a mere desire of the market men.

The market men had found that the change had been caused by unscrupulous speculators, and also that other speculators wished to monopolize the Washington Market place. He alluded to the contemplated continuation of Washington street from Little Twelfth street to Gainesvile street, through property owned by the market men, and the proposed market scheme.

How long have you lived with the defendant?" asked the counsel for Mrs. Graver. "Sixteen years," was the answer of the plaintiff, who also admitted that a child now 14 years of age had been born to them. He said that in November he first heard of his wife's alleged infidelity with W. H. Holmes, and that he was implicated in his charge. His information was soon Holmes, actress, of 198 Adams street.

Mr. Holmes, a hotel keeper, occupied a room in Philadelphia, where he was known as W. H. Langdon, and he was a well-known personage in New York.

John A. Graver testified that he married the defendant on Oct. 28, 1878, and that the acts he complained of were not committed with his procuration, connivance, or consent, and that he had not condoned her alleged offense. He said that he had been an actor, and had also carried on the hair and wig business.

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